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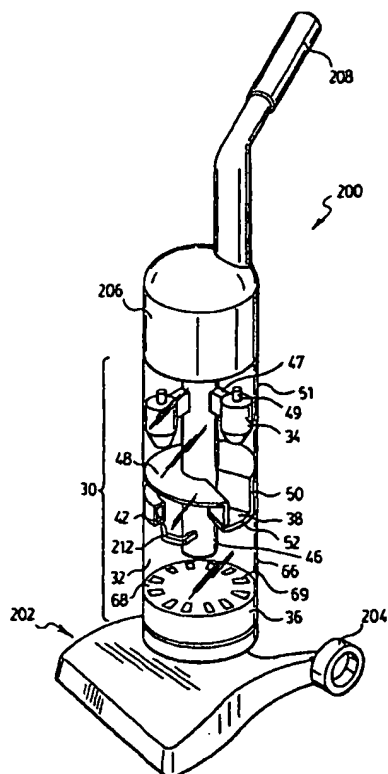
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS OF PARTICLE TRANSFER IN MULTI-STAGE PARTICLE SEPARATORS**

(57) Abstract: An improved two-stage separator (30) uses reusable containers (36, 38) for collecting particles separated by each separation stage (32, 34). The reusable containers (36, 38) are constructed such that a user empties both reusable containers (36, 38) by the actions required to empty just one of the reusable containers (36, 38).



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/CA 01/00866

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A47L9/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A47L B01D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	WO 00 42292 A (FANTOM TECHNOLOGIES INC.) 20 July 2000 (2000-07-20) page 33, line 6 -page 38, line 10; claims 24-31; figure 22B ---	1,2,5, 11,19, 27,32
A	US 3 425 192 A (DAVIS, N.E.) 4 February 1969 (1969-02-04) cited in the application the whole document ---	1,11,27, 32
A	WO 99 34722 A (ROYAL APPLIANCE MFG.CO.) 15 July 1999 (1999-07-15) page 9, line 22 -page 19, line 2; claim 1; figures 1-16 --- -/--	1



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

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A document member of the same patent family

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 88 08269 A (NOTETRY LTD) 3 November 1988 (1988-11-03) the whole document ---	1
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1997, no. 04, 30 April 1997 (1997-04-30) & JP 08 322768 A (SHARP CORP), 10 December 1996 (1996-12-10) abstract -----	1,25,34

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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CN1422187A abstract

Apparatus for separating particles from a fluid flow

Apparatus (10, 110, 210, 310) for separating particles from a fluid flow comprises an upstream cyclonic separator (12, 112, 212, 312) and a plurality of downstream cyclonic separators (26, 126, 226, 326) arranged in parallel with one another. Each of the downstream cyclonic separators (26, 126, 226, 326) projects, at least in part, into the interior of the upstream cyclonic separator (12, 112, 212, 312). This arrangement provides a compact and economic apparatus which is particularly suitable for applications such as vacuum cleaners.

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